



# The Search for the Hubble Constant

Research Methods Student



The Huntington Library, San Marino, California

# Edwin Hubble

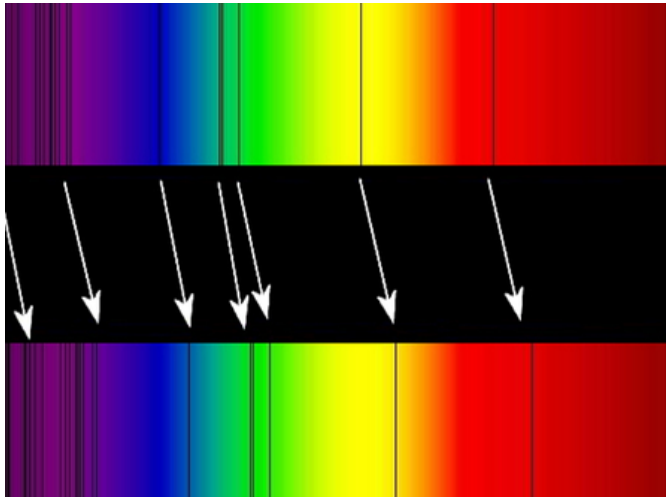
- Father of Observational Cosmology
- Found galaxies outside the Milky Way (1923)
- First to show that the universe is expanding (1929)

# The Hubble Constant

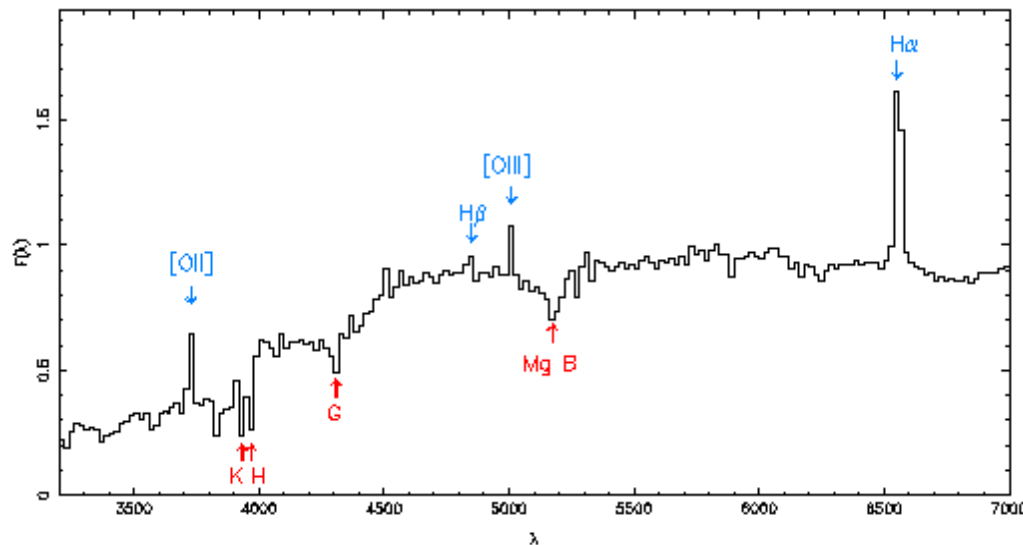
- $H_0$  is the current rate of expansion of the universe. (the rate of proportion of how fast galaxies and other celestial bodies are receding from us).

Wollack, *Universe 101*, NASA (2010)

# Redshift $z$ and Spectra



Redshift caused by the wavelength expanding as galaxies move away - wavelengths of light are stretched by the expansion of space.



Spectra show emission lines that can be tracked and measured to find redshift.

# Angular Diameter $d$

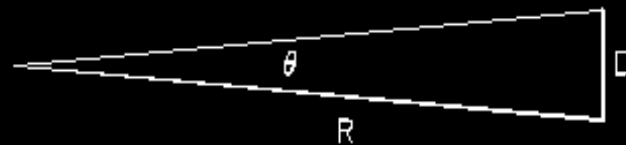


HubbleSite News Center, Hubble Deep Field, Jan. 1996: STScI-1996-01

- Picture of Hubble Deep Field (1500 galaxies shown).
- Measure along major axis – given in arcseconds.

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- $D$  = mean diameter of a galaxy = 20 kpc.  
(from distance measurements of nearby spiral galaxies)

# Formula for Hubble Constant



$$H_0 = V / R \quad \theta = D / R$$

$$H_0 = (V * \theta) / D$$

V in km/s,  $V = z * c$  ( $c = 3.0 \cdot 10^5$  km/sec)  
 $\theta$  in radians, 1 arcsecond =  $4.848 \cdot 10^{-6}$  radians  
 D in Mpc

Smail, *Measuring the Hubble Constant*, Calculation and Discussion of Results

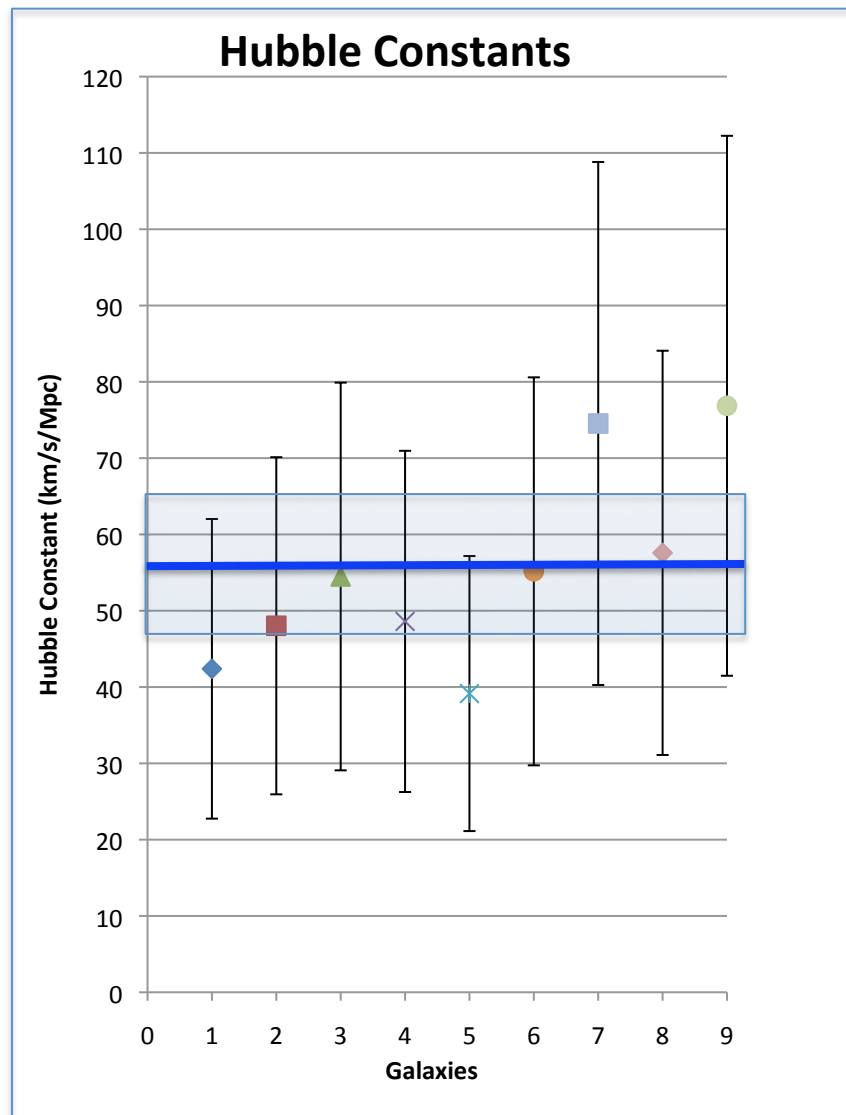
$$H_0 = (V * \theta) / D$$

(units in km/sec/Mpc)

- $V = z * c$   
 (c = speed of light,  
 units in km/sec)
- $D = 0.02$   
 (divide by 100 for  
 Megaparsecs)
- $\theta$  = angular  
 diameter d  
 (units in radians)



# The Hubble Constant



Mean = **55.201 ± 8.691** km/sec/Mpc

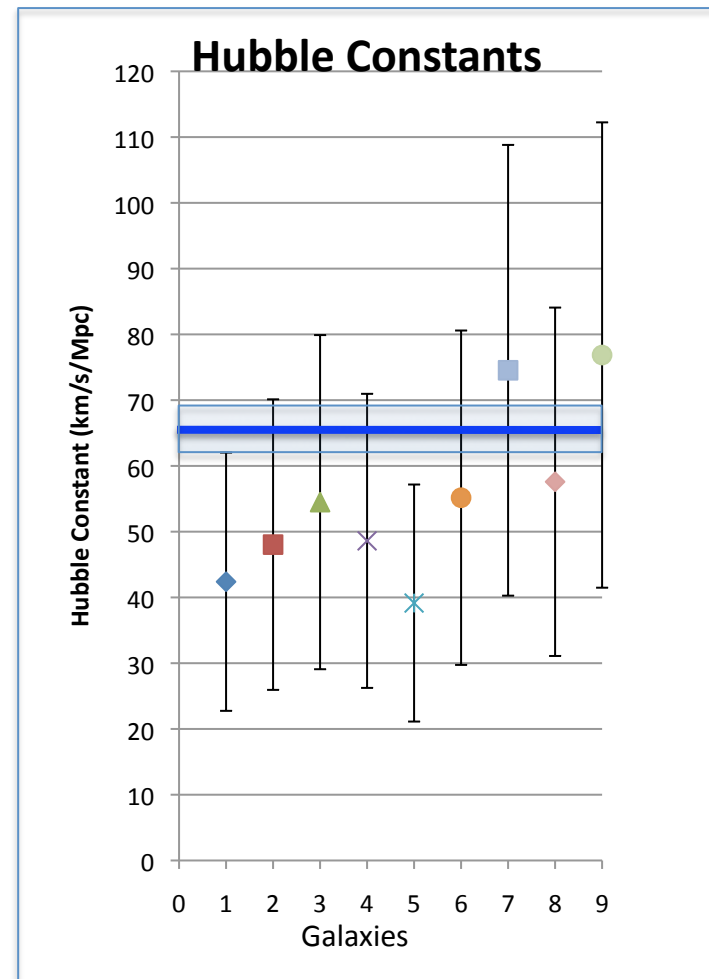
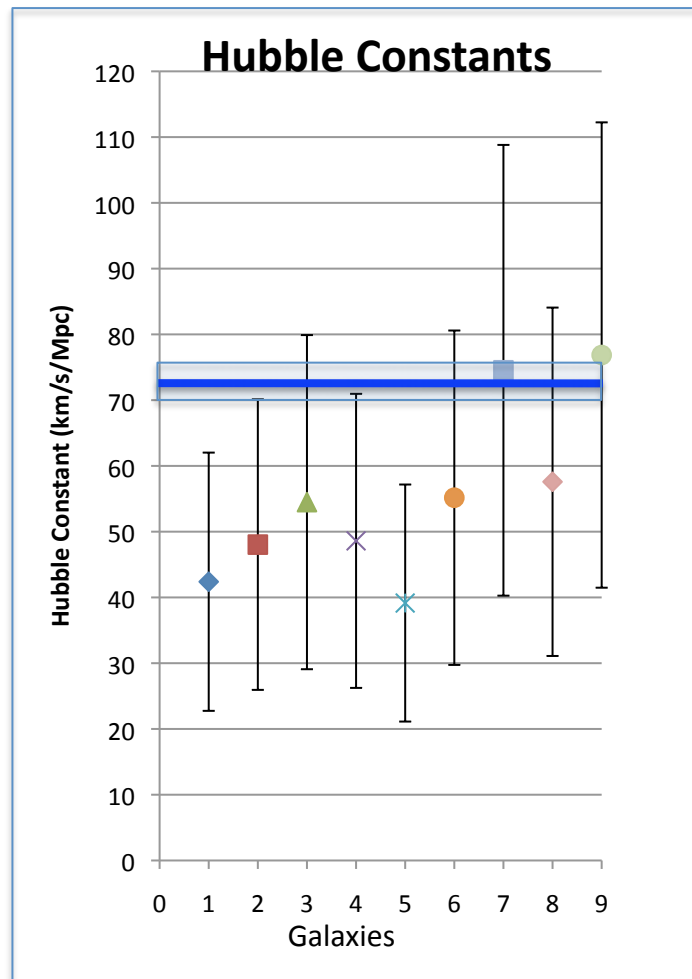
- All the error bars overlap each other.

- Mean goes through every interval for each individual Hubble Constant.

-  $\chi^2$  Test shows that no statistically significant difference between mean and individual Hubble Constants ( $p > 0.25$ ).

# “New” Hubble Constants

- $H_0 = 73.8 \pm 2.4$  km/s/ Mpc  
Riess et al., ApJ, 730.2, (2011)
- $H_0 = 67.0 \pm 3.2$  km/s/Mpc  
Beutler et al., MNRAS 416,(2011)





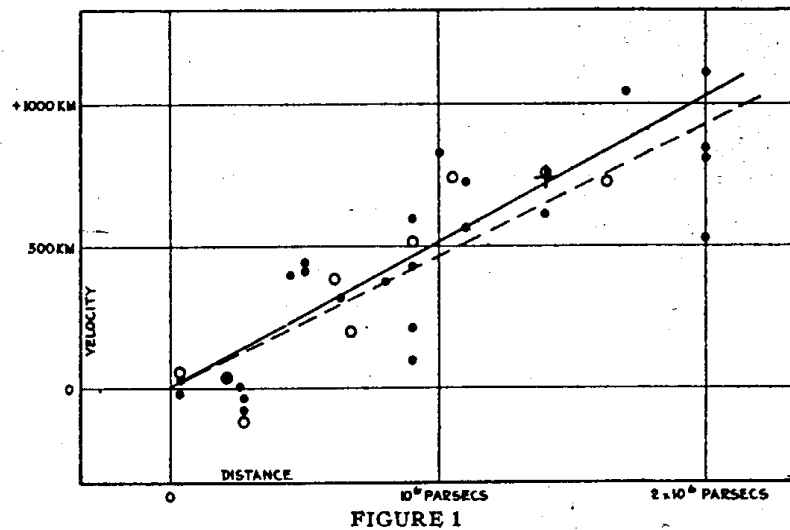
# Hubble's Law

## Connection between Velocity and Distance

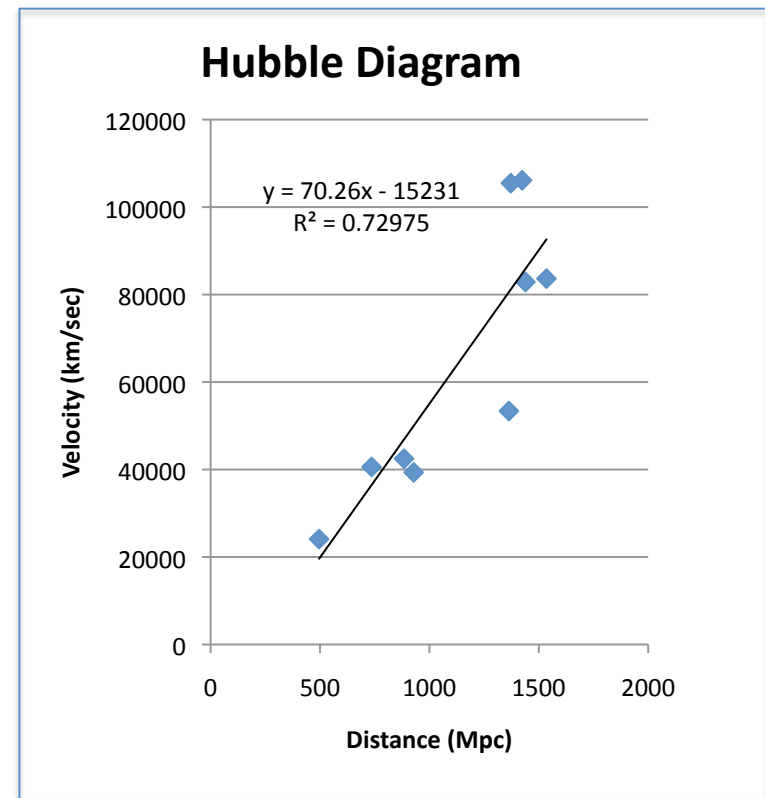
- Higher redshift -> greater recessional velocity (how fast galaxy is moving away from us)
- As velocity increases, distance from our galaxy increases
- Universe expands so galaxies have someplace to go

# The Hubble Diagram

Linear Relationship  
between Velocity and  
Distance:  $V = H_0 * D$



Hubble's Diagram: Published in 1929  
 $H_0 \approx 464 \text{ km/sec/Mpc}$  (slope)



$H_0 \approx 70.26 \text{ km/sec/Mpc}$   
(slope)

# Other Findings/Uses with Hubble

## Constant

- Finds the Age of the Universe ( $H_0$  tells how long the universe has been expanding)

Current approximation:  **$14.2 \pm 1.7$  Gyr.**

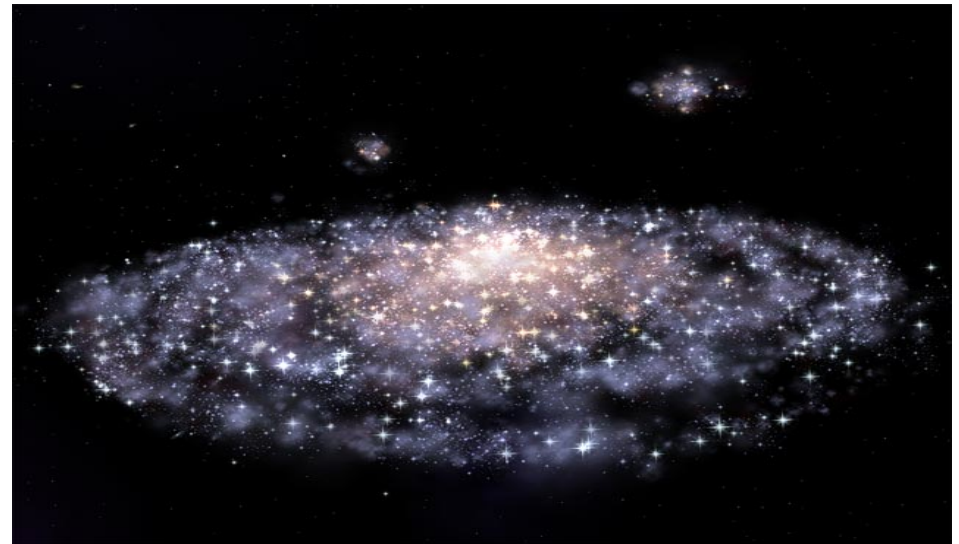
Reiss, *The Astronomical Journal*, (1998) 116.

- Turns recession velocities into true Distances

Horack, NASA Science, 2011

- Used to test, predict and constrain properties of Dark Energy and the curvature of space

(Ichikawa and Takahashi, 2008)



<http://www.fpsoftlab.com/images/screenshots/galaxy-640x480-1.jpg?>

## Sources

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2. Freedman, Wendy, et al. "Final Results from the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project to Measure the Hubble Constant." ***The Astrophysical Journal*** 553.1 (2001): 47-72. *IOP Science*. Web. <[http://iopscience.iop.org/0004-637X/553/1/47/pdf/0004-637X\\_553\\_1\\_47.pdf](http://iopscience.iop.org/0004-637X/553/1/47/pdf/0004-637X_553_1_47.pdf)>.
3. Horack, John. "Lifting the Veil on Hubble's Constant." *Science News*. NASA Science, 6 Apr. 2011. Web. <[http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/1999/ast25may99\\_2/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/1999/ast25may99_2/)>.
4. Ichikawa, Kazuhide, and Tomo Takahashi. "The Hubble Constant and Dark Energy from Cosmological Distance Measures." ***Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics*** 027 ser. 2008.April 2008 (2008): Abstract. *IOP Science*. Web. <<http://iopscience.iop.org/1475-7516/2008/04/027;jsessionid=35D674A745287DD9A2C2493C231663E5.c1>>.
5. Riess, Adam G., et al. "A 3% Solution: Determination of the Hubble Constant with the Hubble Space Telescope and Wide Field Camera 3." ***The Astrophysical Journal*** 730.2 (2011): 119-37. *Hubblesite*. Web. <<http://hubblesite.org/pubinfo/pdf/2011/08/pdf.pdf>>.
6. Riess, Adam G., et al. "Observational Evidence from Supernovae for an Accelerating Universe and a Cosmological Constant." ***The Astronomical Journal***, 116.3 (1998).
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8. Wollack, Edward J. "How Old is the Universe." *Universe 101*. NASA, 19 July 2010. <[http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/universe/uni\\_age.html](http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/universe/uni_age.html)>.